Appl. No. 10/816,253
Response Dated January 15, 2008
Reply to Office Action of October 15, 2007

Docket No.: 1020.P18643
Examiner: Goodchild, William J.
TC/A.U. 2145

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the

application.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Original) A method, comprising:

locating a plurality of devices connected to a fabric;

collecting capability information for each device;

updating a capability table with said capability information; and

configuring each device with fabric information.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said collecting comprises collecting

capability information for a plurality of devices in parallel.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said collecting comprises:

determining whether capability information for a device has already been

collected; and

collecting capability information for said device in accordance with said

determination.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein capability information for said device

has not been collected, and said collecting comprises:

reading a set of capabilities for said device;

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determining whether there are any reference tables associated with said

capabilities; and

reading said reference tables.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising:

detecting that all of said capabilities for said device have been read;

determining whether said device connects to any other devices; and

reading a set of capabilities and associated reference tables for said other devices

if said device connects to said other devices.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said configuring comprises

configuring at least one capability with said fabric information.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

detecting that capabilities information has been read for all devices connected to

said fabric;

creating a connection table for said plurality of devices; and

communicating information between said devices using said fabric and said

connection table.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said collecting and configuring is

performed using protocol interface packets as defined by an Advanced Switching

Specification.

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9.   (Original) A system, comprising:

a plurality of devices;

a communications fabric to connect to said plurality of devices, said communications fabric to communicate information between said devices;

a fabric management module to connect to said communications fabric, said fabric management module to discover and configure said devices to communicate said information using said communications fabric; and

a shelf for said plurality of devices, communications fabric, and fabric management module.

10.   (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein at least one device comprises a single board computer.

11.   (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein said communications fabric is arranged in accordance with an Advanced Switching Specification.

12.   (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein said fabric management module comprises a fabric discovery module to locate said plurality of devices connected to said communications fabric, said fabric discovery module to collect a set of capability information for each device, and to configure each device with fabric information.

13.   (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein said fabric management module

comprises a capability database connected to fabric discovery module, said capability

database to store a record for each device.

14.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

       a plurality of devices;

       a communications fabric to connect to said plurality of devices, said

communications fabric to communicate information between said devices; and

a fabric management module to connect to said communications fabric, said fabric

management module to discover and configure said devices to communicate said

information using said communications fabric, said fabric management module

comprising a fabric discovery module, said fabric discovery module to collect a set of

capability information for each device and update a capability table with said capability

information.

15.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein at least one device comprises a

single board computer.

16.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said communications fabric is

arranged in accordance with an Advanced Switching Specification.

17.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said fabric management

module comprises a said fabric discovery module to locate said plurality of devices

connected to said communications fabric, ~~said fabric discovery module to collect a set of~~

~~capability information for each device~~, and to configure each device with fabric

information.

18.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said fabric management module

comprises a capability database connected to said fabric discovery module, said

capability database to store a record for each device.

19.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said fabric discovery module

generates a connection table for said plurality of devices, with said connection table

having a path between each pair of devices connected to said communications fabric.

20.   (Original) An article comprising:

        a storage medium;

        said storage medium including stored instructions that, when executed by a

processor, are operable to locate a plurality of devices connected to a fabric, collect

capability information for each device, update a capability table with said capability

information, and configure each device with fabric information.

21.   (Original) The article of claim 20, wherein the stored instructions, when executed

by a processor, are further operable to collect said capability information for a plurality of

devices in parallel.

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22.   (Original) The article of claim 20, wherein the stored instructions, when executed

by a processor, collect said capability information using stored instructions operable to

determine whether capability information for a device has already been collected, and

collect capability information for said device in accordance with said determination.

23.   (Original) The article of claim 22, wherein the stored instructions, when executed

by a processor, determine that said capability information for said device has not been

collected, and collect said capability information using stored instructions operable to

read a set of capabilities for said device, determine whether there are any reference tables

associated with said capabilities, and read said reference tables.

24.   (Original) The article of claim 23, wherein the stored instructions, when executed

by a processor, are further operable to detect that all of said capabilities for said device

have been read, determine whether said device connects to any other devices, and read a

set of capabilities and associated reference tables for said other devices if said device

connects to said other devices.